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FBIS 17 (SEE 13)

ISRAEL: BEGIN SAYS HABIB PROMISES PLO EVACUATION COMMITMENT

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(TEXT) LAST NIGHT PHILIP HABIB PROMISED PRIME MINISTER MENAHEM BEGIN THAT WITHIN TWO DAYS HE WOULD TRY TO BRING HIM AN UNEQUIVOCAL COMMITMENT BY THE TERRORISTS TO LEAVE BEIRUT: THE PRIME MINISTER REVALED THIS WHEN HE WAS SPEAKING A SHORT WHILE AGO IN JERUSALEM TO MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY MOVEMENT.

(BEGIN BEGIN RECORDING) WE HAVE A PROBLEM. LAST NIGHT WE MET WITH MR PHILIP HABIB. HE DID NOT BRING MANY GOOD TIDINGS. HE MET WITH HUSAYN; HE WAS IN EGYPT. THESE COUNTRIES OR OTHERS ARE READY TO TAKE SOME OF THE TERRORISTS, BUT IT IS STILL NOT CLEAR IF THE TERRORISTS HAVE TRULY DECIDED TO LEAVE BEIRUT. HE WILL CLARIFY THIS MATTER IN THE NEXT 2 DAYS, HE PROMISED US. HE TOLD US THAT HE MUST RECEIVE, SO HE SA
ID, AN UNEQUIVOCAL
COMMITMENT THAT THEY WILL LEAVE. OTHERWISE, ACTUALLY, WHAT WILL HE ACHIEVE? GOOD, WE ARE CONSIDERING MATTERS; AND DO NOT BE SURPRISED IF WE SAY WE ARE HESITATING. FIRST, WE DO NOT WANT OUR SOLDIERS TO FALL. SO, CERTAINLY WE ARE CONSIDERING MATTERS. WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT THE 7,000 TERRORISTS, EQUIPPED WITH ARTILLERY, TANKS, RPG'S AND ALL THE LETHAL SOVIET WEAPONS THEY HAVE, MUST LEAVE BEIRUT AND LEBANON. OTHERWISE WE SHALL RETURN TO SQUARE ONE. IT IS CLEAR, THEN, THAT IF THE POLITICAL NEGOTIATIONS DO NOT HELP -- FOR WHICH WE HAVE PROVIDED MORE TIME; OKAY, LET US TRY EVERYTHING -- THEN THERE WILL BE NO ALTERNATIVE BUT FOR THE STATE OF ISRAEL TO USE IT OWN MEANS TO ACHIEVE THE DISAPPEARANCE, OF THE TERRORISTS FROM BEIRUT AND LEBANON.

28 JUL 1039Z JA/CH

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